



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

THE PHYSICIAN IN ATOMIC DEFENSE—Atomic Principles, Biologic Reaction and Organization for Medical Defense. Thad P. Sears, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1953. 308 pages, \$6.00.

This book has been very well written and should serve as a valuable source of information for all physicians as well as radiologists particularly in regard to the medical aspects of the atomic bomb and of the place of the physician in civil defense activities. Although the book contains a great deal of scientific information these data have been presented in such a manner that physicians without a background in radiological physics can easily follow the text. It is highly probable that cities will be the front lines of defense in the next war and a great deal of the responsibility will have to be borne by physicians and for that reason it is necessary that physicians and citizens learn as much as possible about civilian defense.

The table of contents of the book is as follows:

Section I—Atomic Theory, Basic Physics, and Atomic Bombs.

Section II—Clinical, Biologic, Pathologic and Therapeutic Aspects of Atomic Warfare.

Section III—Organization of the Medical Department for Atomic Defense. A great deal of discussion has been presented to cover all phases of the role of the physician in atomic defense. The general knowledge of the physician will also be enhanced by the discussions on the basic physics of radioactivity, isotopes, nuclear fission, phenomenology and hazards of atomic bomb bursts, methods of protection against radioactive materials, et cetera.

* * *

DIURETIC THERAPY—The Pharmacology of Diuretic Agents and the Clinical Management of the Edematous Patient. Alfred Vogl, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York University College of Medicine. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1953. 248 pages, \$5.00.

From his own wide experience and from an extensive bibliography, the author has produced this monograph which merits not only the acclaim of the medical bibliophile but also the acceptance and approval of the practitioner of medicine. Although the reader will enjoy the clarity by which the subject matter is presented, he will not read it without converting the information which is presented into practical use.

Based upon concepts which are included in a brief introductory chapter in which edema is classified and its pathogenesis and principles of treatment are clearly identified, the two successive chapters, one on the indications for diuretic treatment and the other on the pharmacology of diuretic drugs, lay a foundation for a clear understanding of the material presented in the following chapters which identify the selection and use of diuretic agents. One is not left with an ill-defined or isolated concept of diuretic drugs because

other factors which are pertinent to the cause of edema and its possible elimination are so well integrated.

In his closing remarks, the author states his hope that "this book may contribute to making these achievements more easily available to the man who represents the vital link between scientific progress and suffering patients, the medical practitioner." It is the opinion of this reviewer that the hopes of the author will be realized quickly when the instructions given in this book, which the writer of the foreword calls "both scholarly and practical," are put to use.

* * *

HEADACHES—Their Nature and Treatment. Stewart Wolf, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine; and Harold G. Wolff, M.D., Professor of Medicine (Neurology), Cornell University Medical College. Little, Brown and Company, 34 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., 1953. 177 pages, \$2.50.

This small book, intended for the layman who wants to gain an understanding of the mechanism of headache, can be read to advantage by the practitioner who is not willing to devote the time to the perusal of the many papers on the subject by the authors. Just what place such a book for the laity has is open to question. Although the statement is made repeatedly that the book in no way takes the place of the physician, and that its suggestions should be followed only after thorough professional examination, there are bound to be many individuals who will use it as a substitute for the medical work-up, possibly with untoward results. On the other hand, the physician can make good use of the book by recommending it to the more intelligent of his patients who suffer from headache of non-organic nature. Although an attempt has been made by the authors to avoid technical terminology, a glossary of such terms would have been an asset.

* * *

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS IN NEUROLOGY. Robert Warthenberg, M.D. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1953. 228 pages, \$4.50.

This small volume is devoted to physical signs of neurological disease that may be elicited at the bedside without special apparatus or laboratory aids. Furthermore, it presents a plea for greater stress on such physical diagnostic methods in modern practice. Certainly no one can find fault with this reasoning, although the present-day trend is quite in the opposite direction.

The author has carried on for many years a fight against the use of eponyms in description of neurological signs and syndromes, and this is carried on in this book. Whether anything is accomplished by substituting for the short term Romberg the appellation "feet together eyes closed test" is open to debate.

Many of the tests described are of more interest to the experienced and curious neurologist than to the student or